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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE A

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 18 July 1950

SUBJECT Cut of Waterway near
Wustrow

NO. OF PAGES 2

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1. Plans for a cut connecting the Saaler Bodden (lagoon of Saal) and the Baltic Sea were completed in late January 1950. The labor offices were to furnish a large number of workmen in March 1950. Excavators, material for narrow-gauge field railroads, and cantonment buildings had been made available but had not yet been shipped to the Wustrow area.
2. Completion of the project is expected to provide better water conditions in the lagoon, prevent erosion of the steep shore known as Hohe Ufer (sic) between Wustrow and Ahrenshoop, and provide a shorter route from the Baltic Sea to Damgarten and Ribnitz. This new route will be 45 nautical miles shorter than the present route around Barthoeft, or Gellen. In addition to these advantages the cut is expected to divert a larger share of repairs on fishing cutters from the Warnow area to the Damgarten Boddenwerft, or shipyard. Both Ribnitz and Damgarten will be included in the fishery program. *
3. Forty-five men from Zingst, about sixty men from Wustrow and its environs, and about 200 men from other places on the Darre peninsula were employed on the project prior to 15 January 1950. After the thaw an additional group of 300 men will be sent there to work. Most of the laborers were elderly men. Only two tool sheds had been erected at the inner end of the bay. Cantonment buildings for workers had not been erected yet. **

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4. The coastal area between Wustrow and Darsser Ort was seriously damaged last winter. With northerly winds the sea inundates the forest to a depth of 150 meters.

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Comment. The cut is being made because the water level in the lagoon is about 50 to 60 cm higher than that of the Baltic Sea. The cut will deflect the coastal stream which continuously washes out the coast at this spot and will arrest the loss of land. The economic advantages resulting from completion of the project will far outweigh expenses incurred. The reasons given in the report are actually of no economic importance. There should be no technical difficulties in completing the project. At its narrowest point the strip of land is only about one kilometer wide.

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**Comment. The engagement of a labor force indicates that the Straminke Project (sic), which provided a cut close to and eastward of Zingst, has been given priority.

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Comment. It is believed that the projects are being executed on orders from the Soviets, rather than on German initiative.

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